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(74) Agents: **REMILLARD, Jane, E.** et al.; Lahive & Cockfield, LLP, 28 State Street, Boston, MA 02109 (US).

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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **PR PHARMACEUTICALS INC.** [—/US]; 1716 Heath Parkway, P.O. Box 2126, Fort Collins, CO 80522-2126 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **HINDS, Kenneth** [US/US]; 1901 Etton Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80526 (US). **LEWIS, Danny** [US/US]; 383 Wynn-Wallace Road, Hartselle, AL 35640 (US). **SCHMIDT, Paul** [US/US]; 8678 Niwot Road, Niwot, CO 80503 (US). **CAMPBELL, Kathleen, M.** [US/US]; 6488 Silverleaf Avenue, Longmont, CO 80504 (US).

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(54) Title: METHOD FOR PREPARATION OF SITE-SPECIFIC PROTEIN CONJUGATES

(57) Abstract: The invention is directed to a single-step method for rapidly and efficiently preparing protein-polymer conjugates, including an insulin-polymer conjugate. According to the method of the present invention, a protein and hydrophilic polymer are contacted in the presence of at least one organic solvent and at least one metal chelator, under conditions that promote the formation of a conjugate of the protein and polymer. Thus, the invention is directed to the site-specific modification of selected proteins, such as insulin, with poly(ethylene glycol) at residue PheB 1. The invention also provides a pharmaceutical formulation for encapsulating the conjugate in a biodegradable polymer.



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